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NSC BRIEFING

20 January

LATE NEWS - COSTA RICA

- I. Possible new oil on dying fire of Costa Rica rebellion provided by Nicaragua dictator Somoza's threat (19 Jan) retaliation for alleged "violation" of border by US-supplied P-51's.
 - A. Planes have been striking at sole remaining rebel concentration, in extreme northwest corner Costa Rica, along border. Thus, technical violation Nicaraguan air-space quite possible.
 - B. Somoza's violent reaction (threat to mobilize army, order airforce into action) out of all proportion to incident. Can be attributed to his "loss of face" from swift, effective OAS action which not only frustrated hopes for ousting his bitter enemy

Figueres but also brought such personal embarrassment as being caught with "rebel" planes in Nicaragua, forced to "intern" them.

- C. Probable that Somoza's threat will remain mere words, abortive rebellion will collapse.

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